

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is noted below.

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) Method to reduce coding artifacts within a discrete decoded picture, said method comprising the steps of:

spatial and/or temporal filtering with respective filter characteristics dependent on an image quality value,

wherein said spatial filtering includes a deblocking filtering,

wherein the deblocking filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value,

wherein said deblocking filtering chooses an activity-dependent weighting function for a pixel to be filtered according to a image quality value, and

wherein the activity of both blocks to which common border said pixel belongs is considered.

18. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said weighting function is only applied to said pixel to be filtered if a blocking artefact is detected.

19. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said deblocking filtering is performed separately for horizontal and vertical borders of neighbouring blocks.

20. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said spatial filtering includes a deringing filtering, wherein the deringing filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value.

21. (New) Method according to claim 20, wherein said deringing filtering chooses a image quality value dependent deringing mask for a pixel to be filtered.

22. (New) Method according to claim 21, wherein said deringing mask is only applied to said pixel to be filtered if said pixel belongs to a homogenous area.

23. (New) Method according to claim 20, wherein said deringing filtering is a two dimensional filtering taking only neighbouring pixels of said pixel to be filtered into account which belong to a same region.

24. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein the temporal filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value.

25. (New) Method according to claim 24,
wherein the temporal filter operation is realized with a blending filter applied to an entire frame which determines a new frame as a weighted sum of a predicted frame and an actual frame, which weighting is dependent on said image quality value and a difference of the actual frame with the predicted frame.

26. (New) Method according to claim 25, wherein said predicted frame is determined on basis of a motion compensation of a previously determined new frame.

27. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said image quality value is determined based on a quantization scaling factor used for encoding the picture.

28. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said image quality value is determined based on a user selection.

29. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a discrete cosine transform.

30. (New) Method according to claim 17, wherein said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a MPEG coding scheme.

31. (New) Method to reduce coding artifacts within a discrete decoded picture, said method comprising the steps of:

spatial and/or temporal filtering with respective filter characteristics dependent on an image quality value,

wherein said image quality value is determined based on a user selection.

32. (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein said spatial filtering includes a deblocking filtering, and

wherein the deblocking filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value.

33. (New) Method according to claim 32, wherein said deblocking filtering chooses an activity-dependent weighting function for a pixel to be filtered according to a image quality value, and

wherein the activity of both blocks to which common border said pixel belongs is considered.

34. (New) Method according to claim 33, wherein said weighting function is only applied to said pixel to be filtered if a blocking artefact is detected.

35. (New) Method according to claim 32, wherein said deblocking filtering is performed separately for horizontal and vertical borders of neighbouring blocks.

36. (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein said spatial filtering includes a deringing filtering, wherein the deringing filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value.

37. (New) Method according to claim 36, wherein said deringing filtering chooses a image quality value dependent deringing mask for a pixel to be filtered.

38. (New) Method according to claim 37, wherein said deringing mask is only applied to said pixel to be filtered if said pixel belongs to a homogenous area.

39. (New) Method according to claim 36, wherein said deringing filtering is a two dimensional filtering taking only neighbouring pixels of said pixel to be filtered into account which belong to a same region.

40. (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein the temporal filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value (Q).

41. (New) Method according to claim 40, wherein the temporal filter operation is realized with a blending filter applied to an entire frame which determines a new frame as a weighted sum of a predicted frame and an actual frame, which weighting is dependent on said image quality value and a difference of the actual frame with the predicted frame.

42. (New) Method according to claim 41, wherein said predicted frame is determined on basis of a motion compensation of a previously determined new frame.

43. (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein said image quality value is determined based on a quantization scaling factor used for encoding the picture.

44. (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a discrete cosine transform.

45. (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a MPEG coding scheme.

46. (New) Method to reduce coding artifacts within a discrete decoded picture, said method comprising the steps of:

spatial and/or temporal filtering with respective filter characteristics dependent on an image quality value,

wherein said spatial filtering includes a deringing filtering,

wherein the deringing filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value,

and

wherein said deringing filtering is a two dimensional filtering taking only neighbouring pixels of said pixel to be filtered into account which belong to a same region.

47. (New) Method to reduce coding artifacts within a discrete decoded picture, said method comprising the steps of:

spatial and/or temporal filtering with respective filter characteristics dependent on an image quality value,

wherein the temporal filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value,

and

wherein the temporal filter operation is realized with a blending filter applied to an entire frame which determines a new frame as a weighted sum of a predicted frame and an actual frame, which weighting is dependent on said image quality value and a difference of the actual frame with the predicted frame.

48. (New) Method according to claim 46, wherein said predicted frame is determined on basis of a motion compensation of a previously determined new frame.